## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:	)	
AUTHORIZING CUT- OFF SCORES FOR THE OFFENDER SCREENING TOOL AND THE FIELD REASSESMENT OFFENDER SCREENING TOOL (OST/FROST)	)	Administrative Order No. 2020 - 52 (Affecting Administrative Order No. 2005-12)

The Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (ACJA) §§ 6-105.01 (Powers and Duties); 6-201.01 (Standard Probation); 6-202.01 (Intensive Probation); 6-205 (Drug Treatment and Education Fund); and 6-209 (Adult Probation Services to Limited Jurisdiction Courts); prescribe the use of a standardized risk assessment by all adult probation departments in the state. ACJA §6-207 (Uniform Conditions of Standard Probation) refers to an assessment in the appendix. The first principle of Evidence-Based Practices in the supervision of justice involved individuals, is the use of validated actual risk assessment tools. Research shows a re-validation should occur every 5-7 years to ensure predictive validity.

The Offender Screening Tool (OST) and the Field Reassessment Offender Screening Tool (FROST) was validated and adopted in 2003. Per ACJA, this is the standardized risk assessment to be utilized by all Adult Probation Departments statewide and directs the probation officers how to supervise persons on probation.

A second validation was completed in 2007-2009 and revisions were made to the range of cut-off scores which designate high, medium and low risk supervision of persons on probation as well as separate cut-off scores for females and males. These changes were made at the recommendation of the research completed by the University of Cincinnati and supported by the Chief Probation Officers through the Committee on Probation.

A third validation was completed in 2019 which validated the predictive validity of the OST and FROST and recommended adjusting the cut-off score ranges again for a more even distribution of cases across risk levels. This recommendation could be accomplished without effecting failure rates and without compromising public safety while continuing to predict recidivism and outcomes of supervision of probationers. The validation showed a high level of predictive validity in the instruments regarding the probation populations statewide in Arizona.

This recommendation was accepted and supported by the Chief Probation Officers in the 15 counties of Arizona. This recommendation came before the Arizona Judicial Council on December 12, 2019 and was approved and recommended for adoption.

Therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED affirming, adopting and authorizing the probation departments across the state to utilize the Offender Screening Tool and the Field Reassessment Offender Screening Tool with the revised cut-off score ranges recommended and adopted, as set forth in Exhibit A (attached and incorporated).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the effective date of this Order is April 27, 2020.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2020.

ROBERT BRUTINEL
Chief Justice

## **EXHIBIT A**

## **OST/FROST CUT-OFF SCORES**

## Males

0-7 Low Low-Medium 8-10 High Medium 11-15 High 16+ **Females** Low 0-10 Medium Low 11-13 Medium High 14-18 19+ High